

THANK goodness, the snow is once more "in" and not "on" the ground.

HOME EDITION

TOPEKA, KANSAS, WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 6, 1918—EIGHT PAGES

THREE CENTS

AMERICANS ARE READY FOR BIG DRIVE BY HUNS

Repeated Raids by Germans
Are Testing U. S. Line.

Eight Americans Killed, 26
Wounded Since January 20.

SPRING ACTIVITY IS REVIVED

Intense Air and Land Battles
Along Entire French Front.

Anti-Bolshevik Forces Are
Gaining Upper Hand.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Under almost ceaseless fire from the German guns, American troops holding a section of the battle front in Lorraine are preparing for a German assault of great magnitude.

The repeated raids against American lines since discovery of Pershing's troops in front trenches about January 20 indicate, military men believe, that the Germans are testing out the strength of the force preliminary to a heavy assault.

Successful German raids on January 20, 21 and 22 apparently launched to identify troops in the American section, resulted in five Americans being killed and ten wounded. There followed a period of several days' pause, presumably heavy reports of results were forwarded to German general headquarters. During this cessation from attacks a heavy fire was dropped continuously on the American trenches.

Then on January 27 the assaults were resumed, in greater violence and with heavier artillery and barrage fire preparation, three Americans being killed and sixteen wounded in action during the ensuing days.

All of the German war weapons were thrown into this fire—gas shells included—with the evident intention of testing the American nerve under stress.

Every Thrust Repulsed.

Every raid was repulsed by the Americans and the barrage was answered gun for gun.

Thru the mist that hung over No Man's Land the Germans were hurling numbers of Americans thrown into the battle against the Kaiser, and the eyes of the whole world today are centered on the fate of the fighting men as the first great stroke against them is awaited.

Already there have come from the front stories of the bravery of Americans under fire—stories of soldiers fighting with their fists to resist capture after the Germans had been repulsed. And since these American troops took over their bit of the battle front, almost daily casualties have made a total of two weeks' fighting—twenty-six wounded in action, whose names will be inscribed on the nation's honor roll.

The first big battle is coming soon, military officials here believe.

SPRING FIGHTING BEGINS.

Artillery, Infantry and Aero Activity
In Advance of Spring Campaign.

(By the Associated Press.)

Building operations and artillery duels are increasing on the western front as the time for beginning of the spring operation approaches.

Two years ago after a successful attack at Sochez, the Germans began their drive to the sea, with heavy artillery fire on February 21, while last year the British captured Grand Cour on the Somme front on February 7 and the Germans two weeks later retired from the Ancre, the first step in the retreat to the Hindenburg line.

All official statements report great artillery activity. The big guns have been busy around Ypres and before Cambrai on the British front, on the right bank of the Meuse on the French front and on the American sector. The British have made a successful raid northeast of Ypres and French raiders brought back prisoners in the Argonne. German attempts near Cambrai and near Corbény in Champagne, were repulsed by the British and French respectively. There has been lively aerial and artillery fighting on the American sector northwest of Toul. The skies there have cleared and the Germans are reported to be bombarding villages which they had left untouched for many months.

Heavy German bombing.

Entire air forces have been active, British flyers on Monday dropped three tons of bombs and accounted for eight enemy airplanes with the loss of one machine. On the Italian front, Italian and British aviators have brought down thirteen enemy machines while the Germans again have bombed Padua.

In Russia the situation appears less favorable to the Bolsheviks. A decree by the Bolshevik government separating state and church and confiscating church property has aroused the opposition of Archbishop Tikhon, the patriarch of all Russia, who has called upon his followers to defend the church. The clash between the government and the church is said to be approaching an acute stage.

New military opposition to the Bolsheviks has arisen in the Tatars and Poles. Russian troops are reported in chief of the Bolshevik army, is reported to have been arrested by Polish troops who captured Mohilev. Tatar forces were moving on the Black sea, after having captured Yalta in the Crimea. In Kiev the Ukrainians are reported to have gained the upper hand.

Important Meeting in Berlin.

After conferences with the German emperor, the German and Austrian foreign ministers are reported to be returning to Brest-Litovsk. German newspapers indicate that if peace is reached with the Ukraine little attention will be paid to the Bolsheviks. The conferences in Berlin continued throughout an entire day, the crown prince, the Bulgarian premier and the Turkish grand vizier taking part. A crown council meeting was held.

WASHBURN HOLDS BIG ANNIVERSARY SERVICES TODAY

Students and Faculty Commemorate Founding of College.

Dedication of Service Flag of
300 Stars Is a Feature.

WOMER GIVES WAR TALK

President Proud of Students
Who Have Entered Army.

Annual Dinner at Chamber of
Commerce Tonight.

Dedication of 300 service flags, representing as many former students as are in national military service, was the feature of the "Founders' Day" celebration at Washburn college this morning. The dedication came at the close of chapel services which were held in observance of the institution's fifty-third anniversary, and in celebration of the college's growth from a single, cramped building to one of the foremost educational institutions in the west with modern, imposing buildings and many acres of beautifully shaded campus.



President P. P. Womer, who talked on "The Call to Service" this morning.

Each flag dedicated was of the regulation service size, containing, in addition to a star for the name of the man, President P. P. Womer of the college was presented with a large service flag bearing a star for each man in service. The large flag will remain the property of the college. The small ones will remain in the possession of the college until the war is over. Each man who returns will get the one upon which he is represented.

In connection with the dedicational services, President Womer spoke on "The Call to Service" and outlined the Washburn attitude in the war.

"This call to service is in behalf of liberty," said President Womer, "of righteousness between men and nations. It is filling the ears and stirring the hearts of great nations, and of vast populations as no other call has ever done, and millions and tens of millions of people are responding to the call."

Good to Come From War.

"For the most part, I suspect we are living too close to the vast political and social movement of our times to understand it rightly. We see only the horrors which are the sad result of it. But nevertheless, I believe the fact is that the people who lived in far off years and saw the mighty empires, which accompanied the fall of the Roman empire saw nothing equal to the movement we are seeing today."

"It is only right, therefore, it is nothing more than we should expect that the universities and the colleges of our land, our own included, should respond fully and unreservedly to the call of this great modern movement."

(Continued on Page Two.)



Dr. Charles M. Sheldon, a speaker at the Washburn "Founders' Day" service.

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(Continued on Page Two.)

TROOP TRAINS MEET

Many Killed in Finland Military Disaster, It Is Reported.

London, Feb. 6.—A great number of persons were killed or injured in consequence of a collision between a train loaded with Red Guards and a government train sent to intercept the Red Guard train near Kem, northern Finland, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen, which came together at the station, and all the coaches being smashed.

NEW AMERICAN U-BOAT WEAPON IS SUCCESSFUL

London Announcement of New
Devices Stirs Mystery.

"New Devices" Not Described,
but Results Are Mentioned.

SILENCE ON U-BOATS SUNK

Daniels Admits New U-Boat
Fighter Being Used.

But No Longer Gives Accounts
of Submarine Battles.

London, Feb. 6.—America has inaugurated a unique anti-submarine campaign, which is successful, it was authoritatively stated today.

"New devices" are being used in this American drive to sweep the U-boats from the sea, it was declared. Guns and torpedoes are also being utilized. Just what these "new devices" are remains a military secret.

The use of torpedoes against submarines, however, is something new. It is possible this may refer to the Hammond wireless-controlled torpedoes.

Secretary of Navy Daniels recently told of the plan to construct a new type of submarine fighter. The secretary, however, said these new fighters would be built, while the London dispatch says the new campaign is already under way.

First Intimation of Invention.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Announcement in London today of America's "unique campaign" with "new devices" against the submarine is the first intimation that recent inventions of the navy are now in actual operation.

Some days ago Secretary Daniels told the house naval committee that a new anti-U-boat fighter had been developed which was the most effective yet. He added that many are being constructed in this country. He declared that they were a cross between a destroyer and a submarine chaser.

The London statement that "new devices" are being used "with success" indicates that the submarine is the father of the submarine invention may now have developed the means of defeating the allies' greatest obstacle to victory.

Numerous New Inventions.

Daniels himself has recently refused to comment in any way on how many U-boats are being bagged. While reports of American victories over the sub-sea scavengers have been published in the past, it has been weeks since the subject has been mentioned in the subject. Recently Daniels indicated there might be no further comment for some time.

It has been known here for weeks that both the army and navy have completed effective means for combating the U-boat which were to be put into operation from time to time in testing their practical worth. At no time have officials doubted they would eventually reach the solution of the submarine difficulty in a weapon to meet it.

Numerous inventions are being utilized today. Just what one is being developed in the present "campaign" navy officials declined to say.

HAS MENINGITIS!

Topeka Girl Contracted Dread
Disease at Lawton, Okla.

She Became Ill While En Route
Back to Topeka.

The illness of Miss Nellie Shore, 29 years old, who was taken from the train and driven in an ambulance to her home, 512 West Seventh street, upon her return Sunday morning from a visit to Lawton and Camp Doniphan, Ok., has been pronounced spinal meningitis by attending physicians, according to Dr. H. L. Clark, city physician, which accompanied the fall of the Roman empire saw nothing equal to the movement we are seeing today."

Miss Shore was taken from the household have been placed under strict quarantine, Clark said today.

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Case Reported Monday.

The case was reported Monday as suspected spinal meningitis and the diagnosis was confirmed today, according to Doctor Clark. Upon her arrival home the family, being suspicious of the ailment, kept all visitors away and for this reason Doctor Clark asserts there is no known danger of the disease spreading from the case. Exposures may have been made on the train, health authorities assert, but not since the patient reached Topeka.

Doctor Clark said today that Miss Shore's condition was reported favorable to recovery. The case seems to be of a modified rather than the more dangerous form, Doctor Clark said.

SALINA CAN'T COME

Washburn Basketball Game Scheduled
for Today Called Off.

A part of the Washburn college anniversary celebration was called off today when Coach De Beukelaar was advised that the Kansas Wesleyan basketball team would be unable to get here for its game with the Lehighs this afternoon.

Professor De Beukelaar immediately sent negotiations for another conference game, trying to get the Emporia Normal team to come to Topeka either this afternoon or tonight, but his last report was that he had been unable to get a definite answer.

THE GAS BOMBERS



Sledge-hammer blows must be delivered by the press and people of the nation to arouse officialdom in Washington from its complacency regarding conditions in army cantonments and in war activities. That was the text of a letter which Governor Capper received today from George E. Chamberlain, United States senator from Oregon. It was Senator Chamberlain who recently started the nation with his sensational exposure of army camp conditions. Following the speech in the United States senate, Governor Capper wrote the Oregon senator a letter of congratulation and endorsement. He reviewed some of the information which he himself had gathered concerning conditions in the camps. He pointed out that the senator's speech was the subject of much comment in state house and political circles. One of his body blows to the national administration's neglect in the care for soldiers in cantonments concerned the case of a liberal, Kansas boy. Now the senator tells Kansas it must use a sledge hammer to arouse officialdom.

LAST RUN TODAY?

L. & T. Scheduled to Go Out of
Business Tonight.

Shippers Still Hope to Keep
Road Operating.

According to the order issued last week by W. A. Austin, receiver, the last train was scheduled to run over the Leavenworth & Topeka railway today. However, it was pointed out today that, so far as shippers and others along the line know, Judge Pollock of the federal court, has not approved the order, and it may be irregular. Austin has suddenly become hard to locate and shippers are "in the dark" as to whether they will have train service tomorrow.

Austin's order, however, is definite. It says train service is discontinued today, and that a train will be sent out Sunday morning after struggling equipment and freight.

Embargo Is Put On.

An embargo placed by the Santa Fe against acceptance of freight to be delivered to the line became effective today. The embargo holds good for all time unless Austin issues a supplementary order lengthening the time of service. The Santa Fe heard today to the effect that a temporary continuance would be ordered, but nothing official.

Topeka are located in Topeka, the western terminal, under the Frederick Wells management, being at Meriden, Between Meriden and Topeka freight and passengers are handled over the Santa Fe on that road's regular trains.

Long distance telephone calls to towns along the Leavenworth & Topeka line reported that no new orders had yet been issued by Austin. A hearing at which the future destinies of the road will be taken up will be heard in Kansas City before Judge Pollock Monday.

Delegation of Shippers From Topeka and other towns between this city and Leavenworth left today to wait upon officials of the Kansas City, Meriden and Topeka railroad to ask the Northwestern to make some arrangement to operate the Leavenworth & Topeka and thereby save the road from being junked.

Railroad attorneys here today asserted that Austin could not discontinue train service on the road illegally without permission from the crown council in Berlin on Monday after which the German and Austro-Hungarian foreign ministers left for Brest-Litovsk.

TELEGRAPHER LEARNS OF MOTHER'S DEATH IN SENDING DISPATCH

Port Worth, Tex., Feb. 6.—Among those killed in an automobile crash here Tuesday was Mrs. Martha Phares, stepmother of A. B. Phares, Associated Press operator at Fort Worth. Phares was on duty at the time of the accident and the first intimation he had of his stepmother's death was when the story was handed to him for transmission, by the correspondent. He was relieved a few moments later.

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AIM AT JUNKERS

German Strike Not Connected
With Russian Revolution.

Reaction Against Anti-Peace
and Militaristic Policy.

Amsterdam, Feb. 6.—At his trial before a court-martial Deputy Wilhelm Dittman, an Independent Socialist, according to the Koelnische Zeitung, ascribed the strike movement to reaction against the maintenance of a state of siege and the machinations of the Fatherland party. The accused denied that he promoted the strike and declared it was only a demonstration strike against a peace of annexations and in favor of peace by understanding.

"If the government had entered into negotiations as requested," Deputy Dittman said, according to the newspaper, "the strike would have lasted only three days. The intellectual organizer of the strike was Admiral von Tirpitz."

PEACE MEET OFF

Russo-German Conference Is
Again Definitely Broken Off.

Bolsheviks Spoil Kaiser's Pact
With Ukrainians.

London, Feb. 6.—The negotiations at Brest-Litovsk have been broken off, the correspondent at Petrograd of the Exchange Telegraph company says he is informed.

Reports from Brest-Litovsk in the last few days indicated that the deadlock has been reached on the question of Ukraine. After the Ukrainian delegation had almost completed an agreement with the Germans and Austrians for a separate peace the Bolsheviks sent to Brest-Litovsk new delegates who they said were the real representatives of Ukraine. The representatives of the usual reports to engineers last summer, the railroads kept them at work under the heavy demands for the war and as a result faced the winter with motive power in bad shape and with insufficient number of new locomotives.

R. H. Northwestern, president of the Chicago & North Western railroad, joined Holden in declaring that "railroad men from section hands to superintendents are not laying down but doing the best they can to serve the government."

TANK TURNED TURTLE!

Skidded in Snow While Making Demonstration for Soldiers.

Camp Dix, N. J., Feb. 6.—A Jersey snow bank today is victor over the British tank Britannia.

The port tread skidded in the snow, while the starboard tread maintaining its powerful traction twisted the tank sideways. An instant later the monster flopped on its side, severely injuring the driver.

MORE MILD WEATHER

Temperature Has Been Above Freezing for Last 24 Hours.

Temperature readings for the day furnished by the local office of the United States weather bureau:

7 o'clock	..... 28 1/2	o'clock	..... 59
8 o'clock	..... 28 1/2	o'clock	..... 59
9 o'clock	..... 41	o'clock	..... 56
10 o'clock	..... 46	o'clock	..... 53

Temperatures today were the highest since December 20, averaging 29 degrees above the normal for the date. The wind at 2 o'clock was blowing 12 miles an hour, but had shifted from the northwest to the west. It was (Continued on Page Two.)

PROBERS DON'T FIND OUT WHERE WE'LL GET SHIPS

Inquire Into Baker's "Million
More Men" Statement.

Senators Put War Secretary
Under Cross Examination.

SQUABBLE OVER SECRECY

Will Furnish Precise Statement
for Executive Session.

Declares "It Was Misfortune
for Me To Have Said It."

Washington, Feb. 6.—Secretary Baker came up for cross-examination today before the senate military committee on his picture of the state of preparedness of the army, which congressional critics have attacked as "grossly exaggerated."

But the principal point of the whole controversy—the question of where the army is going to get ships to transport a million men to France this year—was left untouched, partly because Mr. Baker did not have detailed figures to show the committee on what basis he had made his assertion, and partly because the committee got into a squabble over whether it would be proper to have the secretary of war disclose the figures in public.

The upshot of it was that the question of ships was left to be presented in detailed, exact statement to the committee in secret session tomorrow, and the cross-examination went on to other subjects of a general nature.

To Use Other Than U. S. Ships.

Senator Hitchcock, who has attacked particularly the secretary of war's statement that the United States could put a million men in France this year—in addition to 500,000 there already this spring—was insistent that Mr. Baker should show the committee what grounds he had for believing there were ships available for their transport and supply.

Secretary Baker replied he did not have the exact figures in his mind, but that his statement was made on figures which had been prepared by experts who took into the information at the disposal of the shipping board as well as what ships might be available from neutral and foreign sources. The secretary made plain this he was counting wholly on American ships to transport troops. Secretary Baker did say, however, that probably the form of his original statement was unfortunate which has been made the basis of attack, was unfortunate in that it expressed his general opinion of a rough estimate rather than a detailed statement of experts dealing in details.

Gave Opinion Instead of Facts.

"The misfortune for me, if I may call it such," said Mr. Baker, "is the fact that I attempted to give opinions of the broad general situation as I saw it when the information lay in details that ought to have been gotten from experts in direct charge, or in statistics, giving specific facts. I was attempting a rough survey. It was a misfortune for me to do that."

An estimate of 731,000 tons of ships available for transport on February 1, the secretary said, he had thought was small rather than too large.

The shipping board, Senator Hitchcock said, had advised him that on their records there were available 582 American ships, all of more than 1,500 tons each, including tank ships and the German and Austrian ships taken over.

Mr. Baker did not know how many troops that number of ships would transport, but promised to inform the committee later.

REORGANIZATION PLAN UNDER WAY.

As the cross examination turned to the question of supplies for the army it became apparent from the nature of Secretary Baker's replies to questions that he and President Wilson had been discussing some form of further reorganization of the war department.

He challenged the brotherhood of leaders to prove their charges and declared if any employee or officer can be proven guilty of such acts, prompt discharge will be his fate.

"The present condition of the railroads east of the Mississippi," said Holden, "is primarily due to two causes—the worst winter in many years and dilution of labor. More than 1,250,000 new names have appeared on the pay rolls of the eastern railroads in the last ten months. Thousands of the best railroad employes have enlisted. Many more have entered other lines of work. Instead of the usual reports to engineers last summer, the railroads kept them at work under the heavy demands for the war and as a result faced the winter with motive power in bad shape and with insufficient number of new locomotives."

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"I have a feeling," Mr. Baker said, in reply to Senator Wadsworth, "that legislation that would free the president's hands and allow him to transfer functions and co-ordinate the needs of the departments as they arise would be the best answer to the difficulties. All departments are constantly growing."

"I am, as you know, continually creating new agencies and sometimes when in doubt have to study the statutes carefully how far my authority goes. If the president were simply authorized to reorganize, re-coordinate and transfer functions as he sees fit, we could go to him and secure the necessary orders as were deemed desirable."

Senator Wadsworth said he referred particularly to statutes placing innumerable checks and balances on expenditure of army funds.

Delays in Paying Soldiers.

"It might, perhaps, be wise," Secretary Baker continued, "during the period of the war to authorize the president to suspend restrictive statutes that might be found to impede efficiency. I'm not sure that it is wise not to have these checks and counterbalances. We are spending very large amounts of money and it seems to be wise to check expenditures very carefully."

Senator Wadsworth cited delays in paying troops and Secretary Baker said that that was a "disappearing" question, left by the soldiers' frequent absence from their homes.

Questioned as to delay in payments to the families of soldiers, Mr. Baker said indefinite addresses of dependents, left by the soldiers' frequent absence from their homes, was the cause of the delay.

Difficulties of accounting for liberty bond payments, said Mr. Baker, were being taken care of. He also said to hold up the whole (Continued on Page Two.)

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